



PRAYER

Pray that God would:

- Re-establish Jesus as Lord in our hearts and imaginations
- Awaken our identity as witnesses, not spectators
- Prepare us to receive the Holy Spirit with humility and obedience

Ask the Holy Spirit to shape the group not just for understanding, but for response.

Big Idea: Mission begins with identity. Jesus calls His people to receive the Holy Spirit and live as obedient witnesses wherever they are.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Have you ever misunderstood your role in a team, family, or workplace—and later realised you were meant to carry something different or greater?



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WORD

Acts 1:6–8 (ESV)

“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

CONTEXT AND REFLECTION

A. Jesus Redirects the Question (vv. 6–7)

The disciples are not wrong to expect God’s Kingdom, but their imagination is still shaped by **political restoration** rather than **spiritual mission**. Jesus does not rebuke their hope; He **reframes their responsibility**.

There is a clear distinction here:

- **God’s sovereignty** → times and seasons
- **Our obedience** → being witnesses

As John Stott observes, “The disciples were still dreaming of political dominion, while Jesus was thinking of spiritual power”

Key truth:

We don’t advance God’s Kingdom by controlling outcomes, but by trusting His authority and obeying His call.

B. Power with a Purpose (v. 8)

Jesus promises power—but not for influence, comfort, or visibility.

The Holy Spirit is **given for witness**.

The Greek word *martys* means:

- One who testifies to what they have seen and experienced
- Not a creator of truth, but a bearer of truth

The Spirit empowers **availability, not celebrity**.

We receive power so that our lives point publicly to the risen Jesus.

This means:

- The Spirit is not for private spirituality only
- The Spirit equips ordinary believers for everyday mission

Craig Keener notes that God’s power is often displayed through faithful witness, even in weakness

C. Waiting Is Obedience, Not Passivity (vv. 12–14)

Before Pentecost comes:

- The Church waits
- The Church prays
- The Church aligns itself together

They are **unified, Scripture-shaped, and obedient**.

This teaches us:

- Waiting does not mean inactivity
- Waiting forms us so we can carry what God wants to release

God often delays the exercise of power to deepen unity and obedience.

Key discipleship insight:

Intimacy with Jesus qualifies us for mission.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus refused to answer the disciples' question about timing—but gave them a clear task instead?
2. What does it practically look like to be a witness rather than just a believer?
3. Where has God placed you right now as your “Jerusalem” (home, work, study, community)?
4. What might obedience look like for you this week—in waiting, praying, or speaking?
5. Why is receiving the Holy Spirit essential for mission, not optional?

APPLICATION to CLOSE: OBEDIENCE IN THREE DIRECTIONS

Encourage the group to consider one clear response in each area:

1. SURRENDER

Where do I need to resubmit my plans, timelines, or expectations to Jesus as Lord?

2. RECEIVE

Have I intentionally asked the Holy Spirit to empower me to live as a witness?

3. WITNESS

Who is one person God may be inviting me to love, serve, or speak with this week?

Mission does not start “out there”—it starts with obedience right here.

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite the group into a moment of prayer:

- Repent of self-directed mission or passive faith
- Ask afresh for the filling of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for boldness, clarity, and obedience

You may pray together:

“Holy Spirit, we receive Your power—not for ourselves, but to be faithful witnesses of Jesus. Align our hearts with God’s purposes, and lead us in obedience this week. Amen.”

□

LEADER CLOSE

Final encouragement:

We don’t wait out of doubt—rather, we wait because God is lovingly preparing us to hold what we’ve prayed for. It’s a beautiful reminder that patience is part of His plan, helping us grow and get ready for what lies ahead.

Mission starts here.

With surrendered hearts.

Spirit-filled lives.

And obedient witnesses.